



41st FA conducts live-fire at GTA

story by Spc. Amy Abbott
V Corps Public Affairs Office

V Corps' only artillery brigade is on the move and training hard.

The 1/27th Field Artillery Battalion, the only subordinate unit in the 41st Field Artillery "Railgunner" Brigade, is spending the week maintaining its combat readiness by qualifying on all their individual and crew-served weapons, said Maj. Patrick Hogan, the 41st's executive officer.

Though the 1/27th "Gridsmashers" stand-alone in their field, they manage to carry a heavy load on their shoulders.

"The 1/27th is the single asset the corps commander has to support the 11th Aviation Regiment when they do their deep attacks," explained Hogan. "Their primary mission is to shoot SEAD (suppression of enemy air defense) fires. That's a very big, important mission for the corps."



photo by Spc. Amy Abbott
V Corps Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Michael Sherman, cannon crew member, A Battery 1/27th, 41st Field Artillery, fires an M249 SAW during a live-fire at the GTA.

"We are one of the most destructive forces in the Army. There's no one else who can do what we do," added Spc. Bryan Raines, a Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember, from the 1/27th FA

Battalion.

The soldiers have been qualifying on a variety of weapons such as the M9 pistol, M203 grenade launcher, Mark-19 automatic grenade launcher, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon and M2 .50-caliber machine gun.

"It's nice actually shooting weapons and getting the hands-on experience," said Pfc. Patrick Nelson, a cannon crewmember with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 41st FA Brigade. "I've definitely learned a lot."

Part of their qualifying ties into unit status reporting, which Hogan explained is a monthly requirement by the Department of the Army to ensure the soldiers are kept up to speed.

Hogan guarantees that with training like this, his soldiers always remain ready to accomplish any task put before them.

"They are ready to go," he said. "They are ready to perform their wartime mission."

Sergeant pursues US citizenship

Six-year Army career hinges on the approval from the INS

story by Kathleen Edgcomb
138th MPAD
New York National Guard

Sgt. Issac Ankamah believes in going after a dream. Since childhood, Ankamah wanted to be a soldier. On November 11, 1995, that dream was accomplished.

Another dream of his is to become a U.S. citizen. He is currently working on that dream.

Ankamah, born in Ghana, West Africa, enlisted in the U.S. Army because in Ghana, being a soldier is considered noble, and provides a chance to pursue U.S. citizenship.

"Ankamah is an

aggressive soldier," said Capt. Brad Barker, Commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Aviation Regiment. "He is especially proud to be in the U.S. Army. He knows what it's like to not have the opportunity to enjoy things Americans enjoy and he is more appreciative. He's a great soldier

— (Go to page 2, citizen)



photo by Sgt. Chris Dunphy
35th Infantry Division Kansas National Guard

Sgt. Issac Ankamah, supply sergeant for the 11th Aviation Regiment, seeks U.S. citizenship so that he may reenlist.

citizen...from page 1

who deserves to be a U.S. citizen."

Ankamah, a supply sergeant for HHC, 11th Aviation Regiment, V Corps, was required to be a U.S. soldier for three years before applying for citizenship. In February 1999, he expected to receive a letter from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to set up an interview. The letter never arrived.

Concerned, Ankamah tracked his paperwork. He was told documents were missing from his file and until INS received them he could not start the process of becoming a citizen. He resent the material and waited. Again, more paperwork was required.

1st Sgt. Mark Ramirez felt it was important to help a soldier like Ankamah. He got involved, and with his own money resent his paperwork.

"He is a class act soldier with strong moral values," said Ramirez. "He tries to do the right things in the Army."

Ankamah received his letter in February and went to Houston, Texas for his interview. Feeling confident that he did well, Ankamah is now waiting to see if his citizenship will be approved. He fears, though, that it might not come in time.

"My window of reenlistment ends in May," said Ankamah. According to Army regulation, Ankamah cannot reenlist without his citizenship.

"The unit is standing by him 100 percent," said Ramirez. "The sky's the limit for Sgt. Ankamah. He is going to have a great future in the Army."

THE SOLDIERS OF URGENT VICTORY



photo by Sgt. Brent Hunt
V Corps Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Matthew Bonner, training NCO for the staff engineer section from V Corps, on his role at Urgent Victory: "I'm the day shift battle NCO in the main CP. We ensure that minefields are recorded and plotted."

Warfighter of the Day



photo by Cadet Melanie Meyer, 135th MPAD, Iowa National Guard

Concentrating on the job at hand.

Spec. Marcus Laureth, a light wheeled vehicle mechanic from the 41st Field Artillery Brigade changes the exhaust manifold on a HMMWV. "Our training for the Warfighter is important. It gets us out of the zone that we will never go to war," he said.

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